

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1 and 2. These sheets, which include Figs. 1 and 2, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1 and 2. In Figures 1 and 2, reference numerals 10 have been changed to 12.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Objection was made to the drawings due to the use of reference numerals 10 and 12 to designate notches on the raised element 8. New drawings are submitted herewith in which reference numeral 10 has been changed to 12.

Claims 1-18 are in the application. In the last office action, claims 2-5 and 12-18 were held allowable subject to their being rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected base claim. Claim 2 has now been amended to independent form. Hence independent claim 2 and claims 3-5 and 12-18, all of which depend from claim 2, are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 6 and 8-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Lotz in view of Szymczakowski. As best understood, claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Lotz and Szymczakowski in view of Smith. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In the instant application claim 1 limits the indexing means to being in the lower part of the cock, that is, in an area (C) having a reduced diameter relative to the area (B) into which the apertures (4,5) of the housing (3) open.

In Lotz, when the indexing means are in the lower part of the cock (figures 2 to 5). They are located in an area having the same diameter as the area into which the apertures of the housing open.

In Szymczakowski, the indexing means (28,29) are in the upper part of the cock in an area having a greater diameter relative to

the area into which the apertures of the housing open. Means (36) which are located in the lower part of the cock are not indexing means but only latching means.

One skilled in the art would have no reason to combine the teachings of Lotz and Szymzakowski. In any event, such a combination would not render claim 1 obvious insofar as claim 1 requires that the index means be located in the lower part of the cock, that is, in an area (C) having a reduced diameter relative to the area (B) into which the apertures (4,5) of the housing (3) open.

In the instant application, the elastic means of the indexing system include an elastically deformable ring (10) provided at the end of the key, whereas in the patent to Lotz, the elastic members of the indexing means are studs (9) which are individually raised on the bottom of the housing.

In the patent to Szymzakowski, both the barrel and the tap are elastic, and since the indexing means are located in an area having a greater diameter than the section into which the apertures of the housing open, the deformation of the upper area when the tap is rotated may be detrimental to the tightness of that section.

Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the aforementioned distinctions, claim 1 is allowable over the cited art and reconsideration of its rejection is respectfully requested. Claims 6-11, all of which depend from claim 1 are also believed to

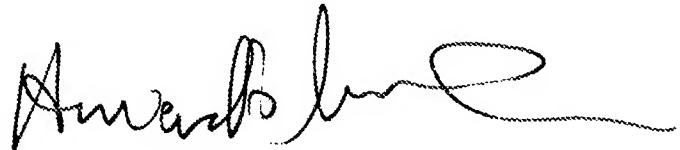
be allowable over the cited art for the same reasons advanced with respect to claim 1.

The prior art cited but not applied in the rejection is believed to be inapposite to the claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

An unpaid fee required to keep this case alive may be charged to deposit account 06-0735.

Respectfully Submitted,



Howard F. Mandelbaum
Registration No. 27,519
Attorney for Applicant

HFM:cnt

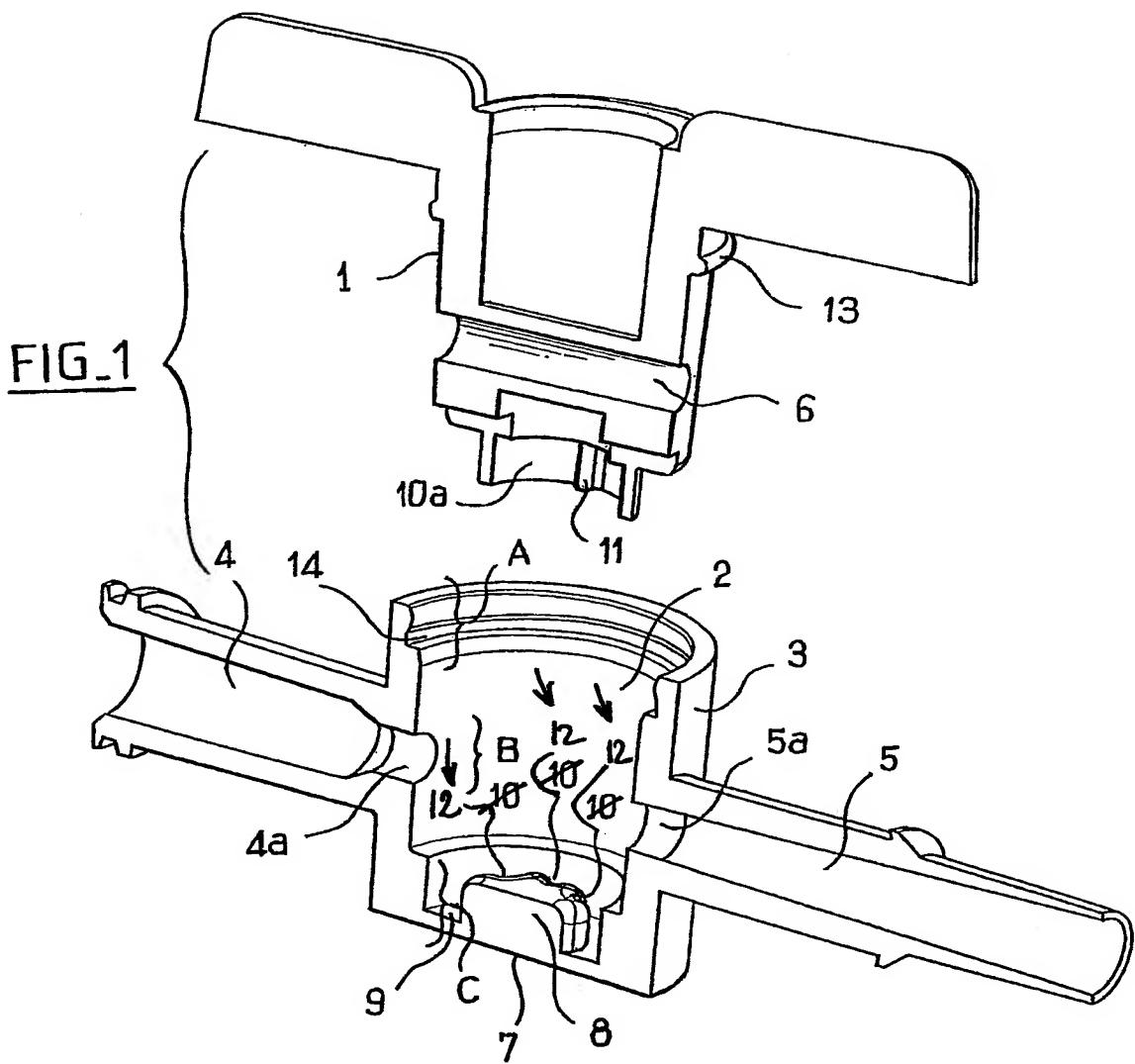


FIG 2

